

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT PEKING 1836 ACTION SECSTATE INFO HONG KONG

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QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1836

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH

SUBJECT: FOREIGNERS IN PEKING PAY LAST RESPECTS TO MAO

REFS: PEKING 1820, PEKING 1829

1. LED BY AMBASSADOR GATES, USLO STAFF AND ADULT DEPENDENTS PAID THEIR RESPECTS TO CHAIRMAN MAO'S REMAINS AT 1700 LOCAL SEPTEMBER 13. (OFFICIAL DELEGATION NUMBERED 12.) AMERICAN CONTINGENT FOLLOWED GROUP INCLUDING JAPANESE, BRITISH, CANADIANS, AUSTRALIANS, WEST GERMANS, AND SCANDINAVIANS IN FILING INTO THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE, PASSING BETWEEN TWO LINES OF MEMORIAL WREATHS AND BOWING BEFORE MAO'S BIER. RECEIVING LINE WAS HEADED BY POLITBURO MEMBER HSU SHIH-YU AND INCLUDED ALTERNATE MEMBERS WU KUEI-HSIEN AND SAIFUDIN, NPC STANDING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN YAO LIEN-WEI AND WANG CHEN, FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTERS WANG HAI-JUNG AND HAN NIEN-LUNG. NANCY TANG STOOD TO ONE SIDE BUT DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN RECEPTION LINE.

2. ATMOSPHERE IN GREAT HALL WAS APPROPRIATELY SOLEMN. A PLA

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BAND PROVIDED CONTINUOUS FUNERAL MUSIC. LONG LINES OF CHINESE

MOURNERS STRETCHED OUT INTO TIEN AN MEN SQUARE, WAITING PATIENTLY FOR THEIR TURN. AS USLO GROUP DEPARTED, CREATING A BREAK IN THE FOREIGN DELEGATIONS, A GROUP OF CHINESE STUDENTS BEGAN FILING PAST THE BIER, THE GIRLS KEENING.

3. DR. SCHLESINGER AND HIS DELEGATION WERE INVITED TO PAY THEIR LAST RESPECTS AT 1530 HOURS, A TIME SLOT NEAR THE TOP OF THE PRECEDENCE QUEUE WHICH BRACKETED THEM WITH CHINA'S CLOSEST INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS: NORTH KOREA, ROMANIA, ALBANIA, NORTH VIETNAM, LAOS, CAMBODIA, PAKISTAN, AND YUGOSLAVIA PLUS A DELEGATION HEADED BY THE VISITING PAKISTANI UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. (THIS DELEGATION, LIKE SCHLESINGER'S, WAS ALREADY IN CHINA WHEN THE DEATH OCCURRED.) IN THE RECEIVING LINE TO ACCEPT THEIR CONDOLENCES WERE PREMIER AND PARTY FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG, WANG HUNG-WEN, CHANG CHUN-CHIAO, CHEN HSI-LIEN, WANG TUNG-HSING AND ULANFU (PLUS, FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, CHIAO KUAN-HUA, WANG HAI-JUNG, AND YU CHAN).

4. MEMBERS OF THE SCHLESINGER PARTY, AWARE THAT THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES (INCLUDING USLO), THE SOVIET BLOC, AND RESIDENT JOURNALISTS HAD ALL FOLLOWED IN ITS WAKE AND HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY A LESSER LINEUP, SPECULATED AFTERWARDS THAT THE PROTOCOL-CONSCIOUS CHINESE HAD INTENDED NOT ONLY TO CONVEY THEIR SPECIAL ESTEEM FOR DR. SCHLESINGER BUT ALSO TO DELIVER A NOT-SO-SUBTLE SNUB TO USLO AND REBUKE TO THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES. (COMMENT: THIS THEME IS LIKELY TO BE DEVELOPED BY JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING THE SCHLESINGER PARTY.)

5. IN EARLIER STATE FUNERALS, CHINESE HAD SIMPLY SET ASIDE A PERIOD WITHIN WHICH ALL FOREIGNERS MIGHT PAY RESPECTS (TO, IN THOSE CASES, THE ASHES). THIS TIME HOWEVER CHINESE ASSIGNED SPECIFIC ONE-HOUR PERIODS FOR PARTICULAR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND OTHER GROUPS. APPARENTLY NO MISSION WAS ADVISED OF WHEN IT COULD GO UNTIL THE MORNING OF AUGUST 13. VERY ROUGHLY THE ORDER SEEMED TO BE: (1) CLOSE FRIENDS SUCH AS NORTH KOREA, RUMANIA, PAKISTAN, ETC. PLUS "SPECIAL" FOREIGN VISITORS; (2) THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES; (3) "SECOND WORLD" COUNTRIES -- THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES INCLUDING USLO; AND (4) SOVIET BLOC.

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